

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT

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a report containing miscellaneous information on the city of Galati.

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INFORMATION ON RUMANIA

A. Rumanian Ground Forces

1. Commands

People's Militia command, located in a new four-story building next to the normal school on Braila Street in GALATI

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The command of the Securitatea (Security Forces) is housed in the same building. Until April 1958, the two commands had their headquarters in a building on Bulevard Republicii, near the Orthodox Cathedral. The former building has now been transformed into living quarters for the families of officials of the Militia and of the Securitatea.

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2. Troops

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a. Unidentified Rumanian unit in a new barracks on the road leading to the Jewish cemetery in GALATI The barracks was built in 1954-1955.

b. Labor detachments

Recruits are no longer assigned to these military labor detachments by reasons of political discrimination, as at one time when the sons of landowners (Chiabur), former officers, former

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legionnaires, etc. were incorporated in these units. The draft quota in excess of the normal needs of the units and the various regular services is assigned to labor detachments, preferably persons experienced in the so-called sedentary services or in services requiring special qualifications. Preference is given to persons already qualified in some suitable profession. 50X1-HUM

These detachments come under the jurisdiction of the Directorate General of the Labor Service (Directia Generala de Serviciul Munci) of the Defense Ministry.

At one time these detachments were called Labor Battalions (Batalionul Munci) and they bore the number of the labor trust (trustul) in which they were employed. Now they are simply called the Military Labor Detachment (Detasamentul Military Al Munci) of GALATI, BRAILA, etc., according to the city in which they are stationed. A detachment in a city has its members employed at one and sometimes more than one local enterprise or factory.

The period of service is the regular two-year period.

Working hours, pay, and labor norms are the same as those for civilian workers. From 350 to 380 lei per month are deducted from the pay for board, room, and work uniforms. Previously, the working soldier received the regular pay and extra pay only for work performed beyond the work norm.

These working soldiers receive one hour of theoretical instruction on regulations and arms every evening. They are not given arms of any

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kind. At the conclusion of their service, the military passbook of each is marked "untrained soldier." The rank (up to sergeant) obtained in these units has only nominal value; when they are discharged, each has the rank of private. 50X1-HUM

Morale in these units is high. The recruits try to get assignment in the labor detachments for the following reasons:

1. military instruction and discipline in the regular units is very hard;
2. there is a chance to make money;
3. leave every evening and Sunday leave for those living in the district;
4. very superficial discipline;
5. probable assignment, in case of war, to labor units behind the lines, rather than to fighting units.

Known detachments: Military Labor Detachment at GALATI, quartered in the Hala Dinogetiei adapted for this purpose, formerly the agricultural exposition building. The commanding officer is a lieutenant colonel. The political officer is Captain PODASCLE, a former railroad mechanic. The detachment numbers more than 1,000 men, about 800 of whom are employed with the Intraprindere No 4 of the TRCL of GALATI (former Group 4 de Santieri), engaged in the reconstruction of buildings in the center of the city. About 200 are employed at the Uzinele Cristea Nicolae (formerly Titan). An undetermined number are employed at the ore-screening station (Stazia de Sortare Minereuri).

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c. Defensive preparations

1) Anti-aircraft and anti-atomic shelter at GALATI.

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This shelter is intended, in case of emergency, for political leaders and police officers. The project was kept secret and carried out under the supervision of the securitatea. As soon as workers finished their specific task, they were replaced by others. In order to conceal the real purpose of the construction, it was said that it would be used as an electrical transformer station.

Location: in an area behind the Teatru de Stat (former V. A. Ureche) and behind the former Mihail Gogalniceanu Lycee, now a professional school. The area is reached by Alleea I. Vishinsky

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Description: an underground shelter measuring about 20 by 25 meters, divided into small rooms and corridors. The outside walls are all of reinforced concrete one meter thick. The roof is composed of the following (from bottom to top): a reinforced concrete slab about one meter thick; sand to a depth of 2 meters; another reinforced concrete slab about 2 meters thick; fill dirt about one meter deep, with bushes and flowers growing on top. There are two entrances.. The metal reinforcing rods are 25 millimeters thick. The doors are steel with hermetic seals.

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Internal equipment: Independent electric plant, running water

and fans and air filters.

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2) Anti-aircraft and anti-atomic shelter at BRAILA:

two shelters have been built at BRAILA, similar to the one at GALATI described above; one in the center of the city (but smaller than the one at GALATI) and one at the Uzina Progresul.

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3) AA gun emplacements at GALATI.

They were timber shelters, half underground, covered with beams and fill dirt, built on the slope of the gradient running north of the city

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The shelters are connected with the municipal electric power and water lines.

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d. Services

Military oven at the corner of The First of May and Stefan Spiridon streets in GALATI

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e. Miscellaneous

In 1954-1955 they reportedly seized four or five trucks of ammunition at a barracks in ORASUL STALIN, with the aid of falsified documents and by wearing military uniforms.

f. Paramilitary organizations

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The People's Guard (Garda Populara). Members are under 40 years old. They are recruited especially from among Party members. Enrollment is voluntary but the Party "invites" the suitable members to submit applications. In case of emergency, these guards are used in national defense services.

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Uniforms: blue uniform; blue overseas cap with decoration: the three national colors in triangular form; three-colored brassard on left arm.

Training: normally once per week; instruction in arms confined to rifle training.

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B. Soviet Ground Forces in Rumania

[REDACTED]

1. Old barracks of former Third Rumanian Artillery Regiment, on First of May Street (former Tecuci) [REDACTED]

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This barracks shelters unidentified units; tanks were also observed there. It is believed that the barracks is still occupied by the Soviets, in the same strength as in June 1958, the date of the beginning of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Rumania.

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2. Old barracks on Traian Street, near the jail [REDACTED] occupied by unidentified Soviet unit. Not known whether this unit has moved out.

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3. Russian military hospitals, two at GALATI; one in an old barracks of the former Siret 11th Infantry Regiment, located at the end of Cristea Nicolae Street (former Kazarme Street) [redacted] and one in the former Rumanian Military hospital on Traian Street [redacted]

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4. Opposite the former Rumanian hospital on Traian Street (mentioned above), there was an open-air AA practice firing range. Adjacent to it was a Soviet military motor pool. These were moved out in the summer of 1958 [redacted]

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5. A school used by the children of Soviet soldiers stationed at GALATI. Location: on the corner of Bulevard Republicii and ^hVisinsky Street [redacted] Not known whether it will re-open for the current school year.

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6. Open-air tank pool, outside of the city, in the Lunca Siretului woods, beyond the suburb of TIGLINA, on the road to BRAILA, near the Siret River. Not known whether it is still there.

C. Rumanian Topographic Information

1. Railroads

The Russian-gauge railroad from RENI runs as far as GALATI. The terminal main line to GALATI extends to the Transshipment Station (Gara de Trasbordarea) [redacted] where the goods are transshipped so that they can continue on the Rumanian-gauge railroad.

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2. Roads

Highway from BUZAU, via FAUREI, BRAILA, and GALATI, to RENI. Asphalted in 1956; there were no changes in the old route, however, and the roadbed was not widened. The grade crossing at BARBOSI was eliminated and an overpass constructed.

In the city of GALATI, this road is composed of ~~porphy~~ blocks or asphalt; there is two-way traffic but the width of the road is undetermined.

During the Hungarian revolt in 1956, Soviet military columns coming from RENI used this road uninterruptedly for several days.

D. Rumanian Economic Information

1. Wages and salaries

2. Industries

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a. Stufului Combine in village of CHISCAN, near BRAILA.

East Germany and Czechoslovakia have sent technicians and machinery to the enterprise. Raw material consists of the reeds (Stuf) growing in the marshes of the Danube River delta. The reeds have to be cut off below water level. As a result of the climatic conditions and from working in the water, the workers soon become ill. In the past, efforts were made to have this work done by political and common prisoners. Now, however, only a few prisoners are employed and the work is done mostly by local workers.

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- b. Rolling mill of CALAN and of NADRAG [no further details].
- c. Cement factory of MEDGIDIA, and
- d. Cement factory of BICAZ: the first was built for the construction of the Danube-Black Sea Canal (later abandoned), and the second for the construction of the BICAZ hydroelectric power plant (still under way). Both furnish cement for the Rumanian building industry.
- e. Cement factory of ORASUL STALIN [no further details].

[Industries at GALATI]

f. Olga Bancic (formerly Atlantic) spinning mill. Old building on road leading to Jewish Cemetery [redacted] employing 400-500 persons, mostly women. Activity: spinning and weaving cotton.

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g. Fusu weaving mill. Old factory, expanded in postwar period, still being expanded. Location: corner of Bulevard Republicii and Cezar Street [redacted] This mill employs from 400 to 500 persons, mostly women. Activity: weaving cloth from Rumanian and Russian cotton.

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h. Vasile Roita brick factory (former Vasile Miron), on road to TIGLINA [redacted] the only brick factory in this area.

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i. Dunareana Factory for magaroni products and cookies.

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This factory is equipped with modern automatic machinery and operates around the clock. Location: corner of Vadur Carabus and Dr Rusel streets [sic] [redacted] 50X1-HUM

j. Cristea Nicolae (formerly Titan) works in GALATI.

Prewar rolling mill formerly owned by Max AUSCHNIT (who also owned the rolling mills of NADRAG and CALAN). This plant was severely damaged during the war. Reconstruction and expansion work is still under way and scheduled to be completed on 31 December 1958. The work began in 1954. 50X1-HUM

Location: near the river port. [redacted]

This plant is equipped with six [redacted] automatic rolling mills; the prewar factory had only three. [redacted]

Number of workers: not known, but will be increased because the plant is not at full-scale operation.

Production: various rolled products.

Personnel: Eng Edgar RUSSU, director of building construction at the plant.

k. Delfinu Halva and Candy Factory; old factory modernized.

Location: on Dr Russel Street [redacted] Halva ia a Balkan confection made with honey and wheat flour. 50X1-HUM

l. Chain factory at GALATI, a new factory which began operations in 1956, located on the road leading to the Jewish Cemetery [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] Number of workers not determined. 50X1-HUM

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Production: chains of various kinds, chiefly for the shipyards of GALATI and BRAILA.

m. Policolor (Paint and Enamel) Factory at GALATI. Small prewar laboratory turned into a factory. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Production: paints and varnishes.

n. Ore-sorting station. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A new plant which began operations in 1952-1953.

Location: near the new river port (Bazin Nou) on the western outskirts of the city [REDACTED]

A complex composed of 50X1-HUM

various buildings, an ore bin, and open ore dumps.

Activity: sorting of crude iron ore intended for the Rumanian iron works. The ore comes from the USSR by rail or by boat.

This plant is connected with the main railroad station of GALATI. It could not be connected directly with the station operating on Russian-gauge track (Gara Larga) because this latter station is situated on an embankment considerably higher than the level of the ore-sorting station. The embankment of the [Russian-gauge] railroad station serves to keep back the waters of Lake Brates during the period of rains and the flooding of the Danube.

A project has already been prepared for the construction of a metallurgical combine here. This construction work is to be begun in 1959 or 1960.

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3. Electric power

Thermal electric power plant of GALATI, located on Salupei Street, near the Cristea Nicolae Works [redacted] This 50X1-HUM is an old plant, expanded after the war, and using diesel oil as fuel.

GALATI is at present receiving electric power from the new hydro-electric plant at BICAZ, which is already in partial operation. The BICAZ plant was constructed basically for the new petroleum industry complexes of ONESTI but it is also supplying power to GALATI and BRAILA. The transformer and distribution stations of these last two cities are connected and operate in relays.

4. Civilian fuel depots at GALATI.

Location: on Colonel A. I. Volosin Street, near the railroad station. There had been two fuel depots, the former Palas [redacted] and the former Distributia [redacted] both consisting of above-ground tanks. The tanks have been dismantled and the two depots are now used as construction material depots of the GALATI TRCL (Trustul Regional de Constructii Locale, Regiune Local Constructie Trust).

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5. Building Construction

a. Organization of building construction in Rumania [not translated; discusses 1958 regulation.]

b. The TRCL of GALATI

Location of headquarters: on Bulevard Republicii, opposite the Church of St. Francis. Under its jurisdiction come Enterprise

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No 1 of GALATI, Enterprise No 2 of BRAILA, Enterprise No 3 of FOCSANI, and Enterprise No 4 of GALATI. The last-mentioned is the former Construction Site Group No 4 (Gruppo n. 4 de Santieri), which is engaged in the reconstruction of the municipal center.

Personnel: director general: Eng GIORGIESCU, a Communist; chief engineer: Eng Stefan BUBENEK, of German origin; chief of the technological service: Eng Octavian COSOVLIU, a non-Communist

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c. Enterprise No 4 of GALATI (former Construction Site Group No 4).

Personnel: Viktor PREISLER, director; Eng Nicolae COSTANTINESCU, second engineer; Eng Solomon BRESTEKER, a Jew, chief of the technological service; Eng Mircea BLUMER, a Jew, employed in construction work; Eng Petre JORGAN and Eng Cornel PEONARU, both employed in construction work.

The enterprise employs about 1,000 workers, of whom about 200 are civilians and 800 soldiers of the labor detachment.

Activity: Reconstruction of the municipal center, destroyed by Soviet artillery fire 2 days before the entry of the Soviets into the city. Reconstruction was begun at the end of 1955. Up to the present the following have been built:

1. the Municipal Theater, for the local philharmonic orchestra and for concerts;

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four
2. /four-story buildings, measuring 50 x 14 meters, already occupied;

3. two four-story buildings, 50 x 14 meters, to be completed in November 1958;

4. two four-story buildings each 150 meters long and about 20 meters wide, subdivided into five sections [each]. Internal finishing is under way and the window and door frames are being installed;

5. one building (exactly like the two preceding) construction of which was begun in August 1958;

6. four buildings near the municipal park, two of them for students of the University of GALATI; these buildings are already occupied.

These construction projects are financed by various agencies for their own personnel; for example the municipality, and the Cristea Nicolae Works. The apartments are very small and composed of one, two, or three rooms plus service rooms [i.e. kitchen and bathroom?]. Rents are 60-70 lei per month for each room, including heating; the apartments are centrally heated.

These homes are called "workers' homes," but the workers are unable to pay the high rents so they are occupied by political leaders and technicians. Small homes for the workers are being built in the vicinity of the cemetery; these are one-story structures with two apartments, each with a yard.

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The cement is supplied by the cement factories of MEDGIDIA, BICAZ, and ORASUL STALIN and the bricks by the local Vasile Roita brick factory.

6. Social services

a. Civilian hospitals at GALATI:

1. Hospital No 1: a prewar hospital, the largest in GALATI, located on Traian Street [redacted] Bed capacity not determined;

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2. Hospital No 2: the building of the former C. A. Rossetti Gymnasium, transformed into a hospital in 1956;

3. Isolation hospital for contagious and psychiatric diseases; a prewar hospital at the end of Traian Street [redacted]

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4. Pediatric hospital, a prewar hospital located near the new headquarters of the People's Militia and the Securitatea command, on Braili Street [redacted]

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5. Children's Clinic for preventive treatment of tuberculosis, the barracks of the former Siret Eleventh Regiment [redacted]

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6. Tuberculosis Sanatorium, at the corner of Beldiman and Negru Voda streets [redacted]

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b. GALATI water supply

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Danube River water is used. The filtering and purification plant is located at TIGLINA [REDACTED] From here the water is pumped to the main supply tanks in the western part of GALATI

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[REDACTED] New water basins were constructed in 1957-1958 to meet the increased demand for water.

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c. GALATI gas supply

There is no gas works. Bottled gas is used for domestic purposes.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Economic situation in general

[Description of economic deterioration of the country.

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[REDACTED]

Most of the factories are operating "on a planned deficit," because if they had to sell their products at cost price, they would have to close their doors. The main contributing factors to the insolvency are theft, negligence, sabotage, and lack of interest on the part of the workers.

Rumania has never had so many unemployed. In GALATI alone, with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants, there are from 4,000 to 5,000 unemployed persons. With the continuance of agricultural mechanization, the demand for manpower is decreasing also in the countryside.

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b. Civilian motorized vehicles in GALATI

1. about 20 private cars, generally owned by doctors;
2. no motor scooters;
3. 30-40 light motorcycles;
4. 200-300 motorbikes.

E. Rumanian Political Information

1. The University of GALATI

There are at present two faculties, begun in 1952-1953:

a. The Marine Machinery Institute, in the building of the former Notre Dame de Sion Institute, at the corner of Bulevard Republicei and Vultur Street

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b. The Land Improvement Faculty (Facultate de Imbunatatire Fonciara), which has eight sections: Chemical Fertilizers; Agricultural Construction; Pure ~~Mechanics~~; Pine-Culture; etc.

2. Pressure on foreign nationals to adopt Rumanian citizenship

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The worst bugbear for foreigners is to be accused of espionage, and the Securitatea openly makes this charge if the person involved has been to the legation of his own country only once. Finally, however, the Service indicates that, in spite of the fact that it has proof of such a crime, it is prepared to drop the charge if the accused becomes a Rumanian citizen.

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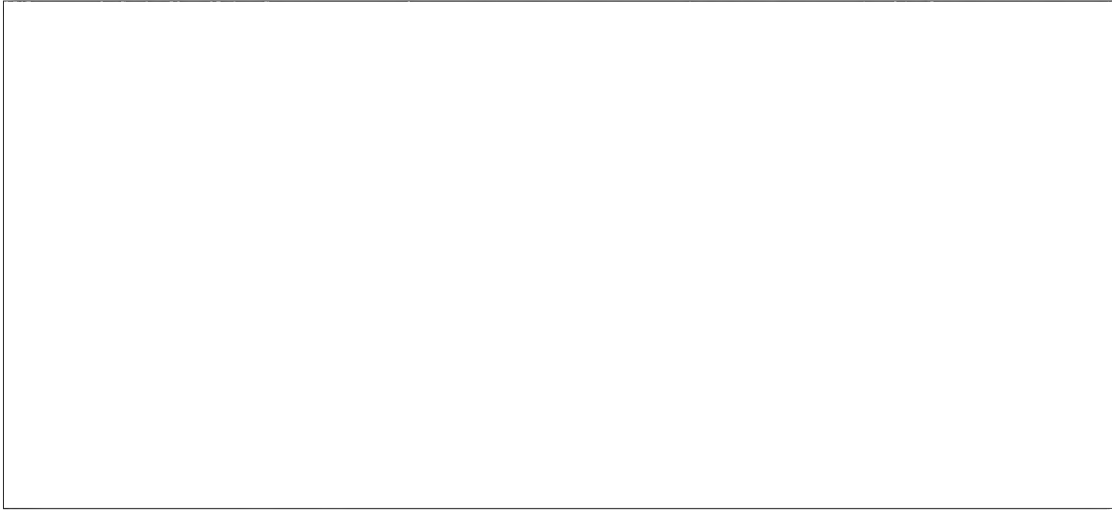
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[REDACTED]

All persons entering or leaving the [REDACTED] Legation in Bucharest are photographed from across the street, where there is a commercial representation of the Hungarian Legation and a library. Such a photograph alone constitutes proof of the accusation of espionage.

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F. Rumanian Aviation

Civilian Airfield of GALATI

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Location: northwestern outskirts of the city [REDACTED]



Merely a landing field without either runways or airport installations. It is used only for the landing of civilian TAROM (Transport Aereene Romina, Rumanian Air Transport) planes.

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